



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEDALIA, MO., MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Sedalia, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to possession of child pornography.

Patrick E. Ross, 54, of Sedalia, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon.

By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Ross** admitted that on April 23, 2003, he was in possession of 23 videotapes and four photographs that each contained visual depictions of persons under the age of 18 engaging in sexually explicit conduct.. **Ross** also agreed to forfeit to the government any property used in the commission of that offense.

Under federal statutes, **Ross** could be subject to a sentence of up to five years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Lawrence E. Miller. The case was investigated by the United States Postal Service, the State Technical Assistance Team and the Sedalia, Mo., Police Department.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow